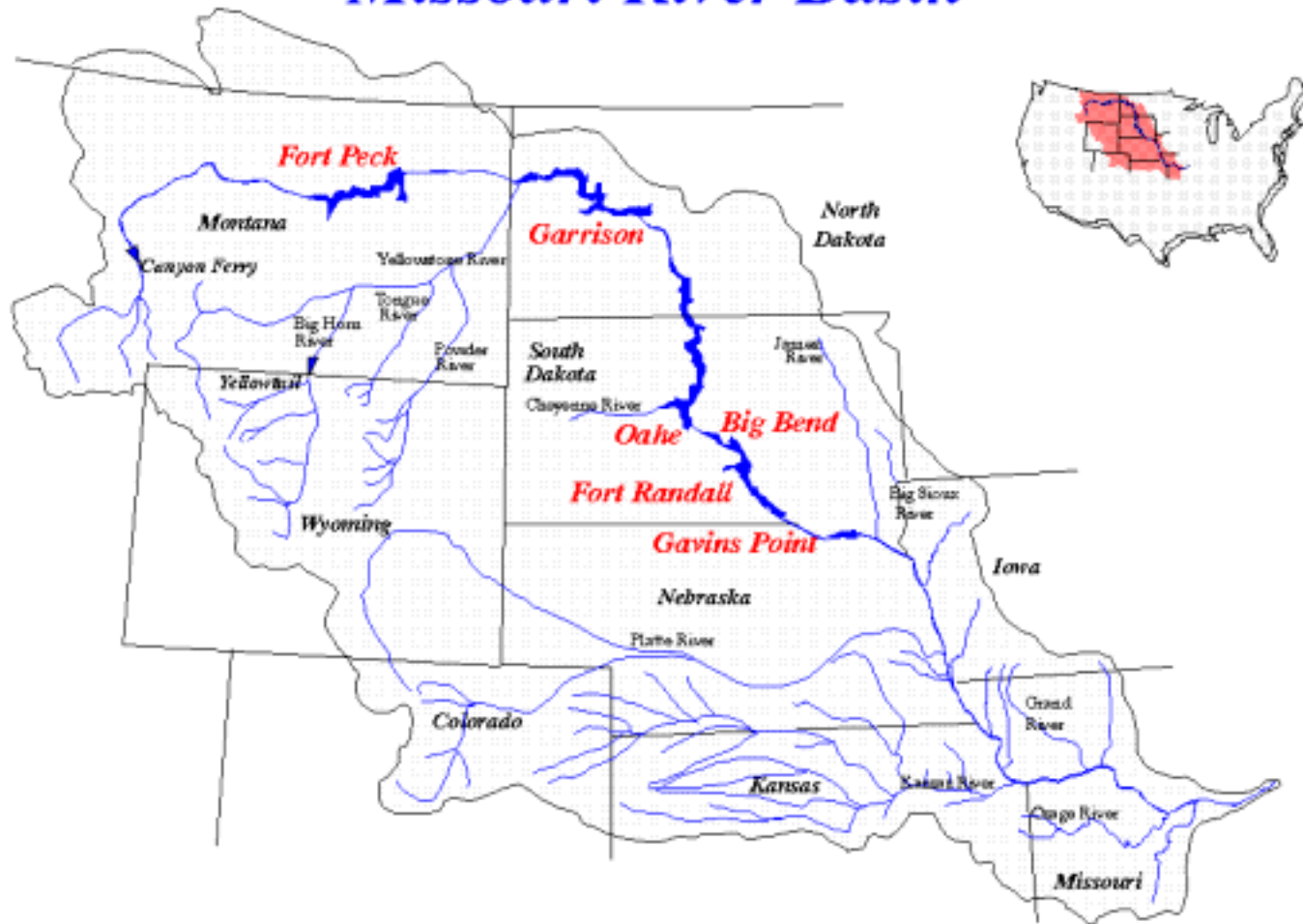


Missouri River Summit 2003

Welcome to South Dakota

Missouri River Basin



Master Manual

- Definition - Is the guide used by the COE to operate six dams on the mainstem of the Missouri River.
- Current manual last revised in 1979.
- In 1989, congress directed COE to review the current master manual.

- Drought conditions during 1987-1990 resulted in negative impacts and disputes:
 - **Navigation**
 - **Reservoir Based Recreation**
 - **Reservoir Fisheries Management**
 - **Threatened & Endangered Species**

NEPA History

- Master manual review conducted according to NEPA guidelines:
 - EIS (Environmental Impact Statement)
 - Draft Alternatives

NEPA History (cont.)

COE issued DEIS in 1994 with a preferred alternative.

- Public Hearings
 - Controversy and vested interests
 - Requested additional and revised studies
- 1990, 1994 & 1995 USFWS Jeopardy Opinions - ESA
 - Consultation in 2000 - BI-OP

NEPA History (cont.)

Basin States and Others Began Efforts to Reach Consensus.

- MBSA formed in 1981
- MRBA formed in early 1990's
 - COE asked MRBA to develop a consensus in late 1994
- MRNRC formed in 1987
- National Academy of Sciences - 2001
- Other Studies

NEPA History (cont.)

1998 - COE Prepared a Preliminary Revised Draft EIS (PRDEIS).

- COE identified eight alternatives, but did not select a preferred alternative.
- In 1999 several additional alternatives were submitted to the COE by various groups including the MRBA proposal.
- January 2000 - COE proposed a preferred alternative.
 - Drought conservation measures & flow changes from Ft. Peck Dam to address ESA concerns.
 - Did not propose Gavins Point flow changes.

NEPA History (cont.)

- March 2000 - USFWS position was that the preferred alternative would not preclude a jeopardy opinion for listed species.
- April 2000 - COE & USFWS entered into consultation under ESA Section 7.
- November 2000 - USFWS issues final BI-OP
 - Concludes that COE current operation of the Missouri River reservoir system jeopardizes the least tern, piping plover and pallid sturgeon.
 - Recommended flow changes, including Gavins Point, to preclude jeopardy.

NEPA History (cont.)

- August 2001 - COE Issues Revised Draft EIS for Master Manual.
 - Addresses optional flow changes for Gavins Point Dam.
 - 6 month public comment period.
 - COE plans for a final EIS, preparation of a ROD, and update of the Master Manual, to comply with the 2000 BI-OP, by 2003.

Legal History

- Since 1991, there have been ??? lawsuits filed to help the process move along!

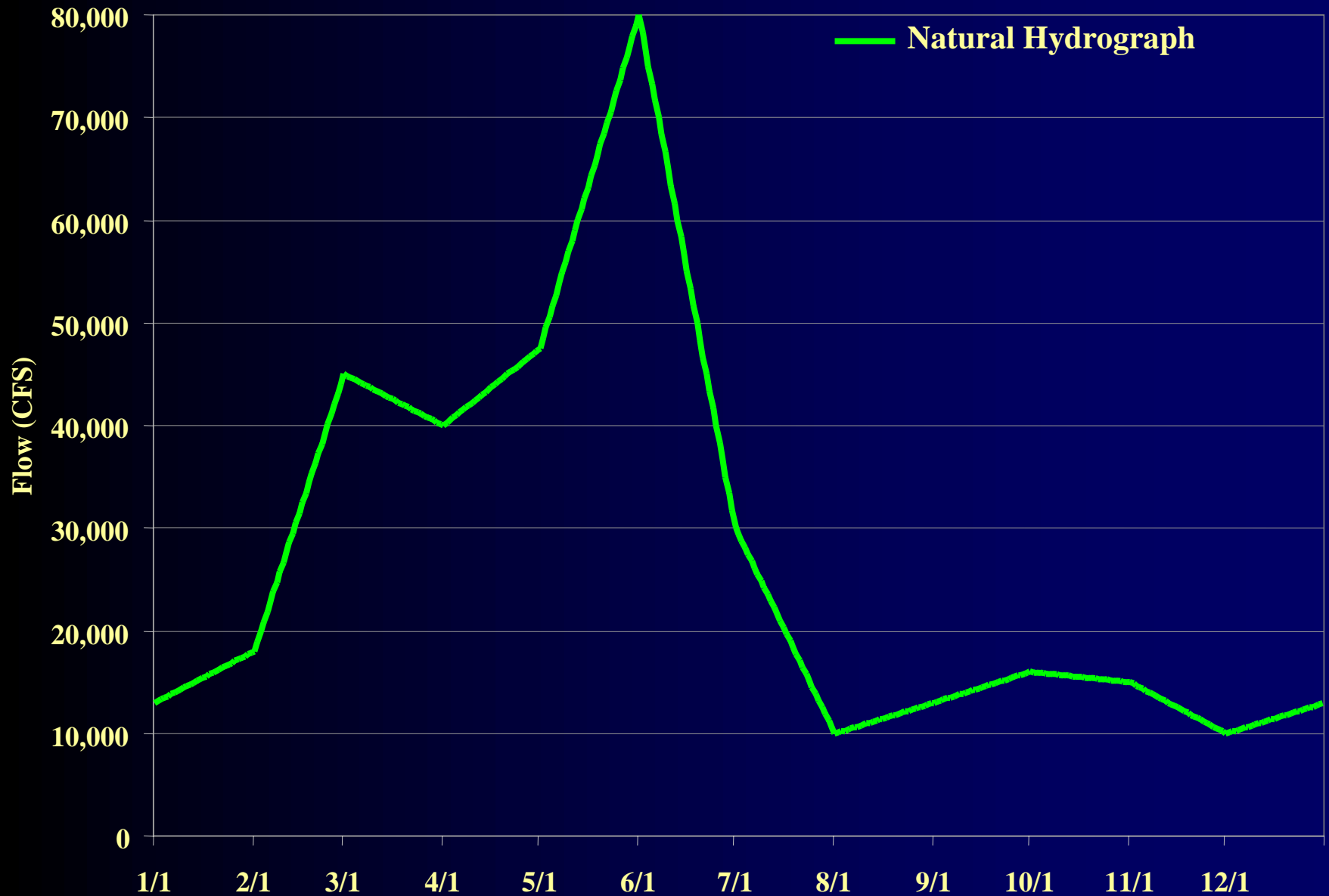
Today - 2003 Missouri River Summit

- Decisions need to be made for compromise as you consider:
 - Native American tribal perspectives
 - Social changes
 - River health
 - Flood control
 - Navigation
 - Agriculture
 - Hydropower
 - Irrigation
 - Flood plain management
 - Recreation
 - Water quality
 - Cultural resources
 - Adaptive management

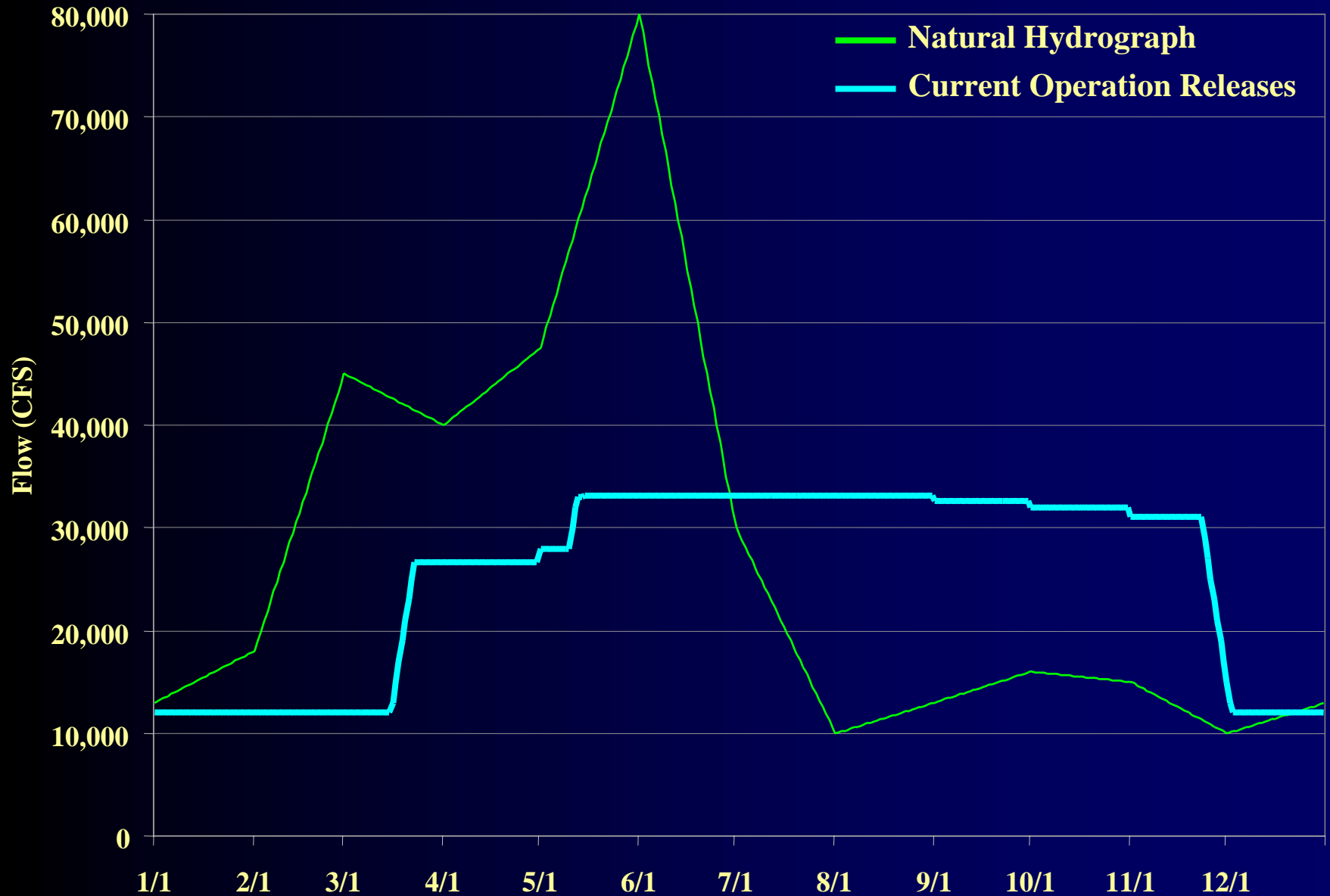
Components of a plan that will attempt to address the diverse issues of the Missouri River Basin

- Adaptive Management
- Drought Conservation Measures
- Fort Peck Spring Rise
- Unbalancing the Upper Three Reservoirs
- Gavins Point Dam Release Changes

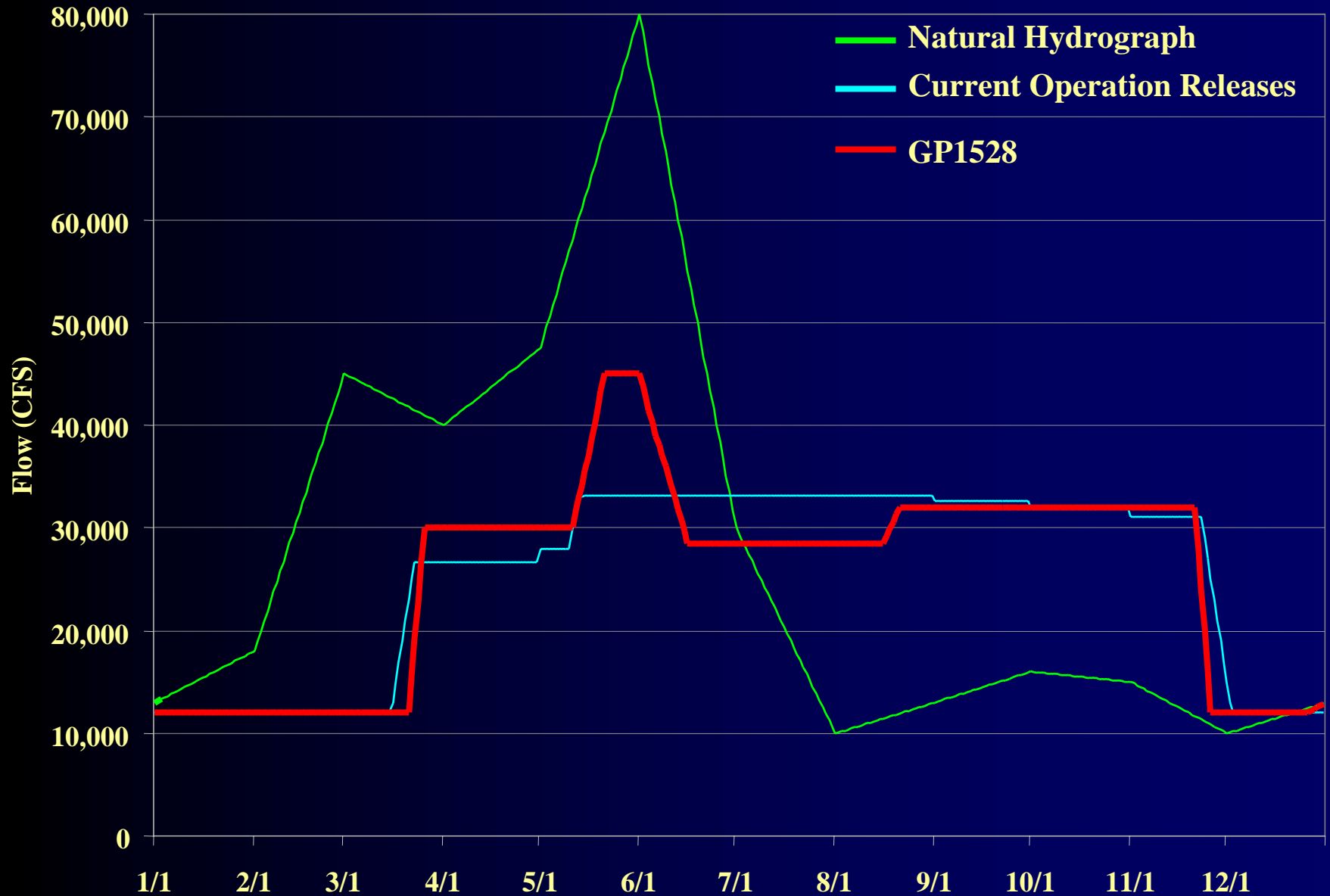
Missouri River Operations



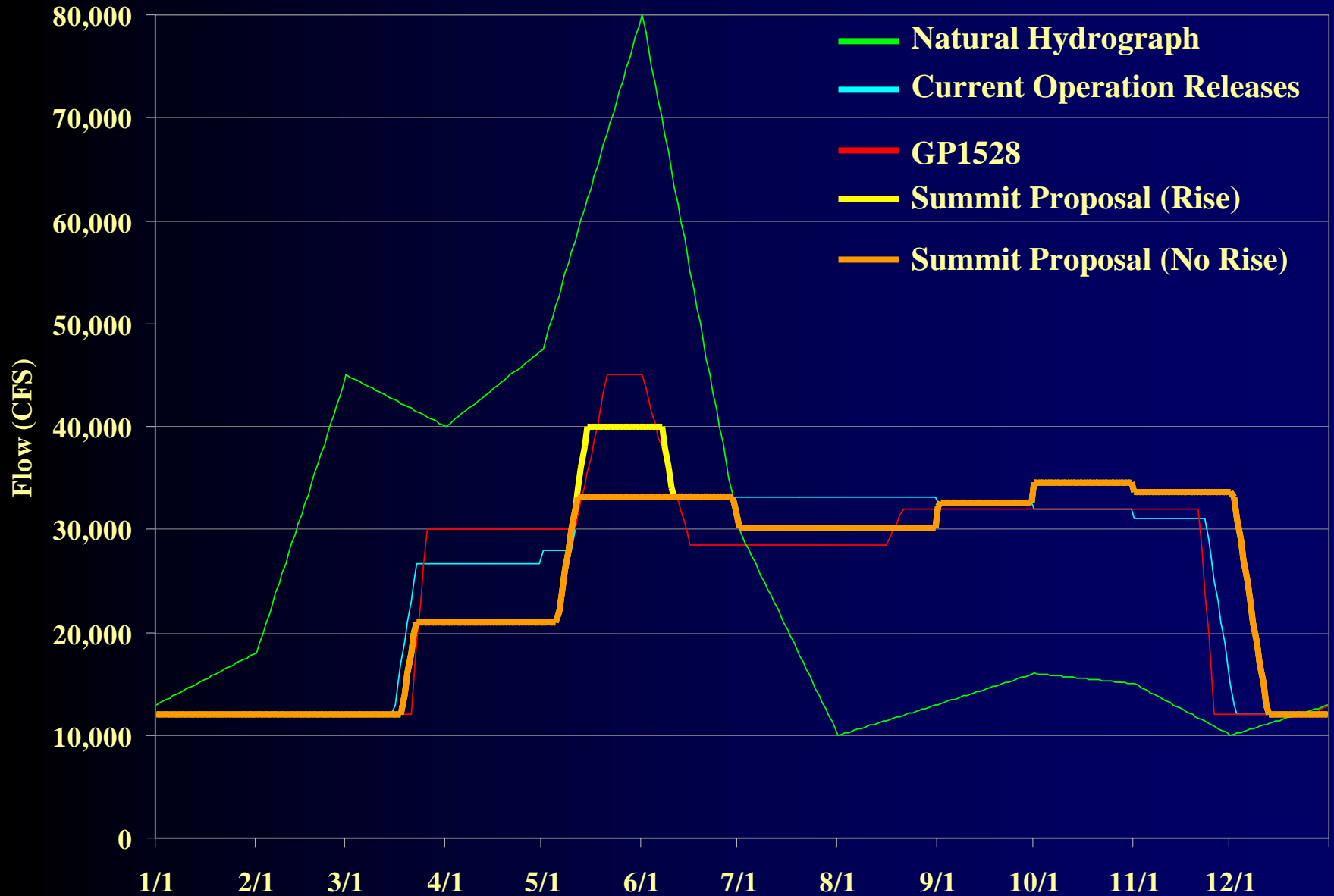
Missouri River Operations



Missouri River Operations



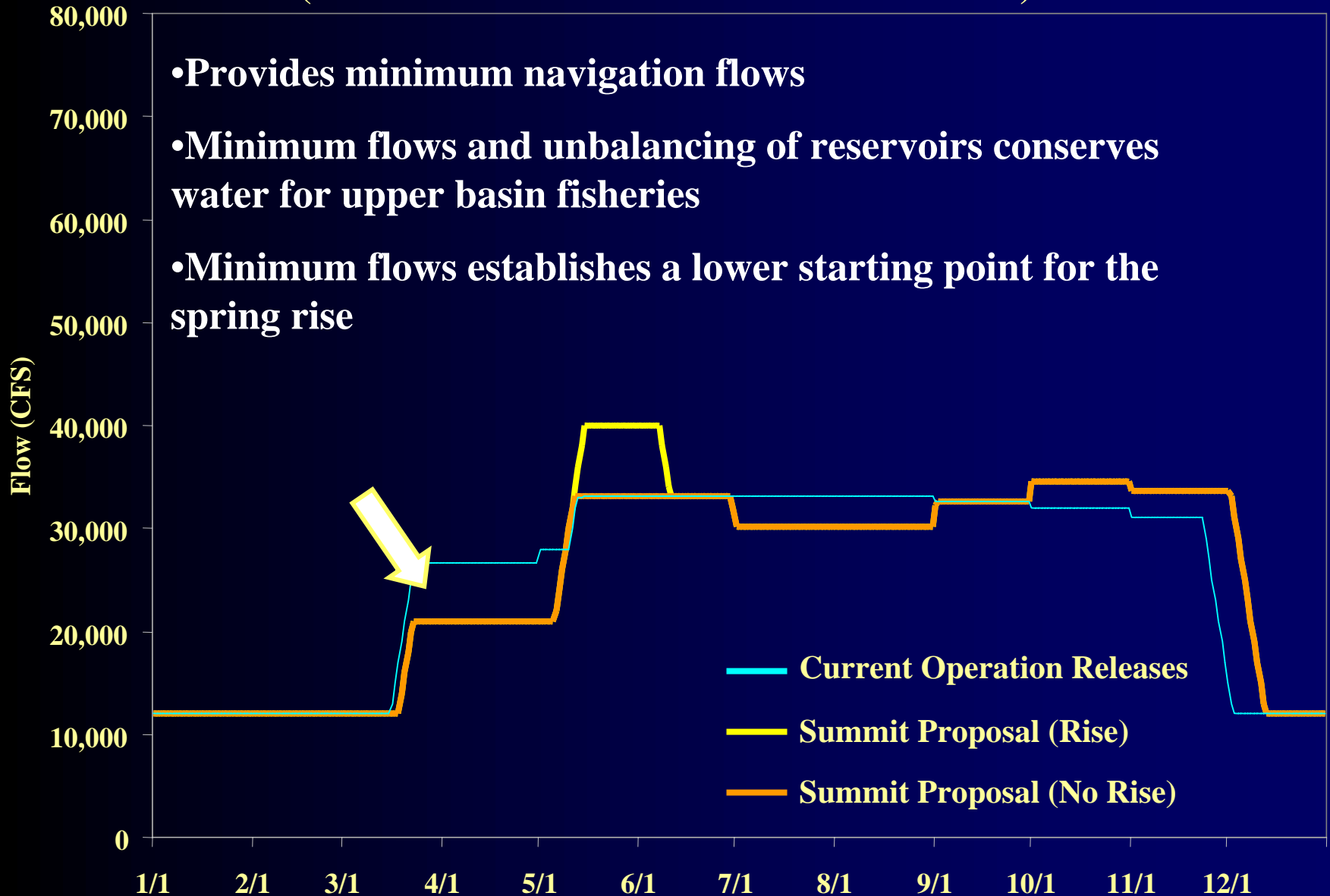
Missouri River Operations



Summit Proposal

(Gavins Point Release-Normal Conditions)

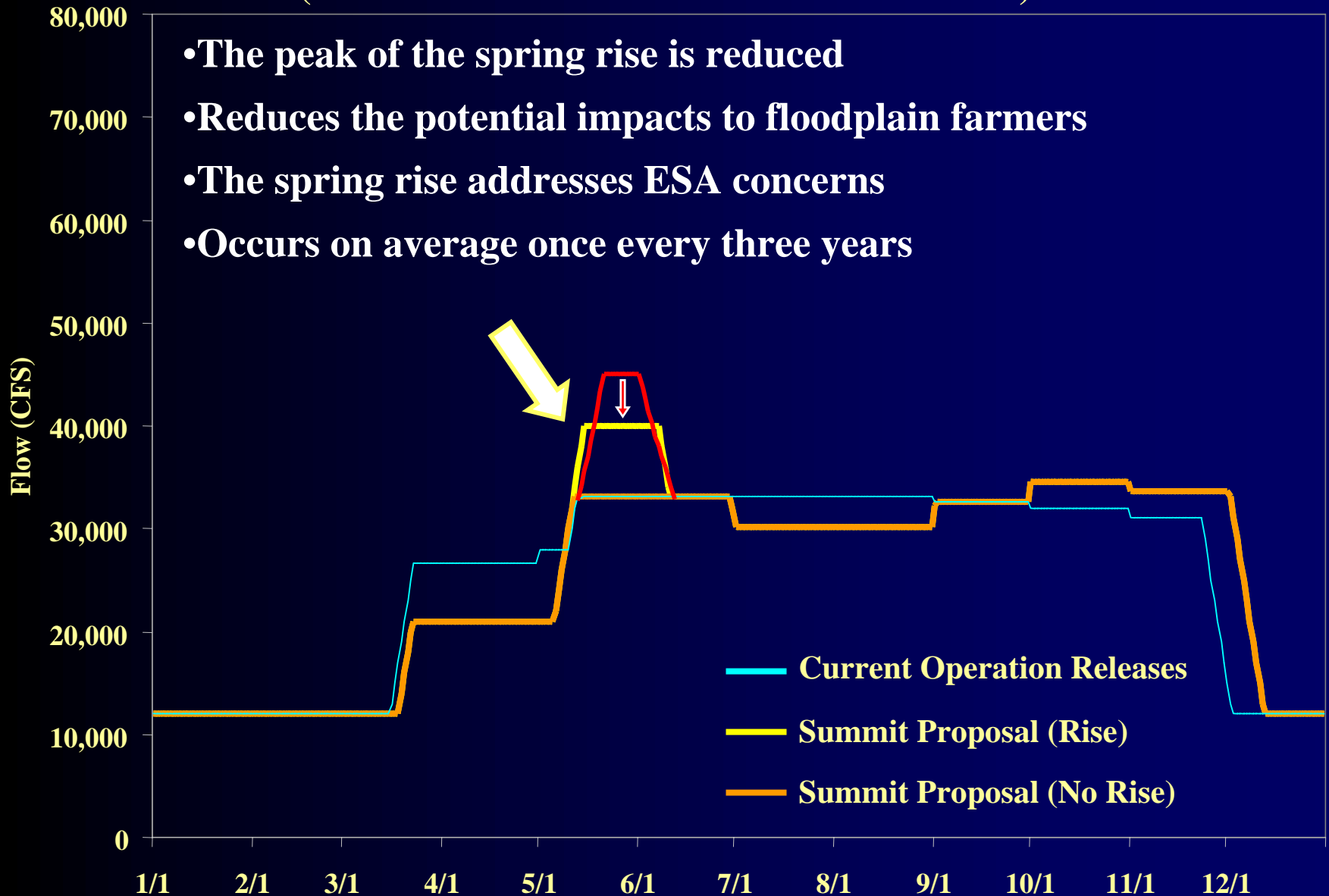
- Provides minimum navigation flows
- Minimum flows and unbalancing of reservoirs conserves water for upper basin fisheries
- Minimum flows establishes a lower starting point for the spring rise



Summit Proposal

(Gavins Point Release-Normal Conditions)

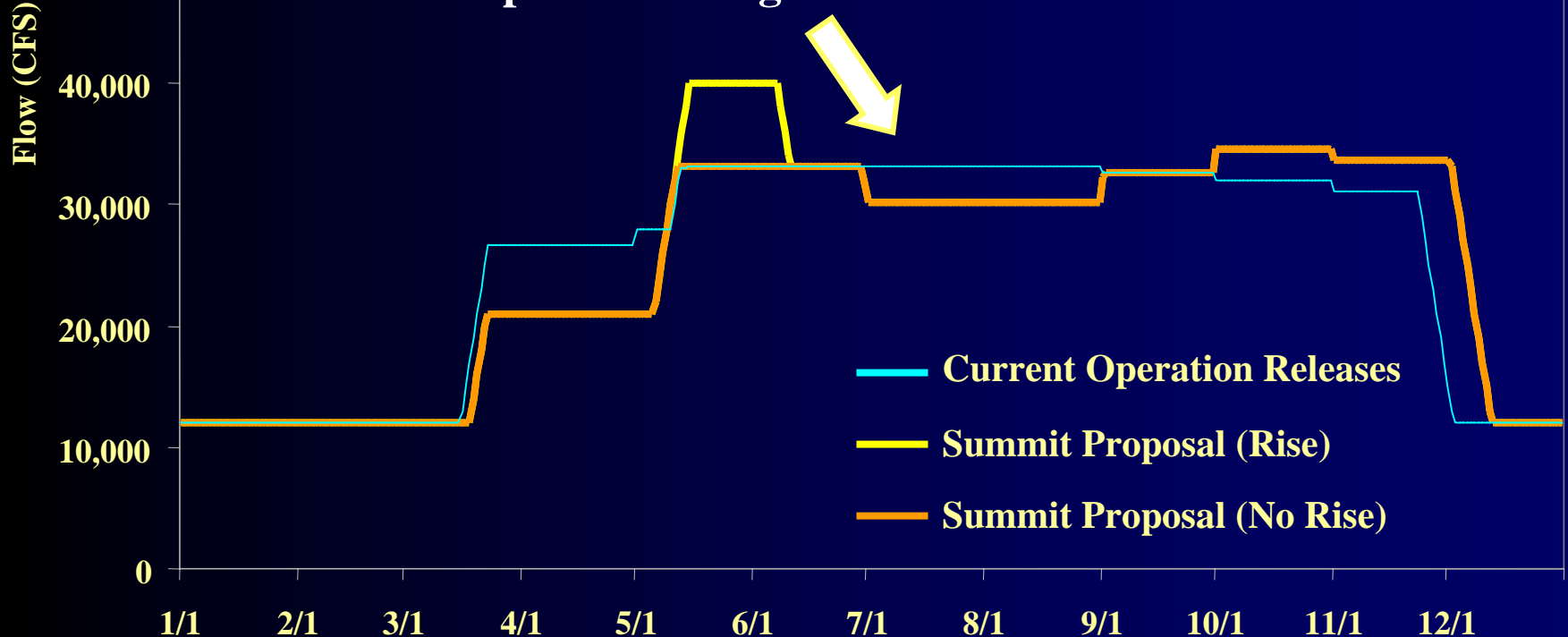
- The peak of the spring rise is reduced
- Reduces the potential impacts to floodplain farmers
- The spring rise addresses ESA concerns
- Occurs on average once every three years



Summit Proposal

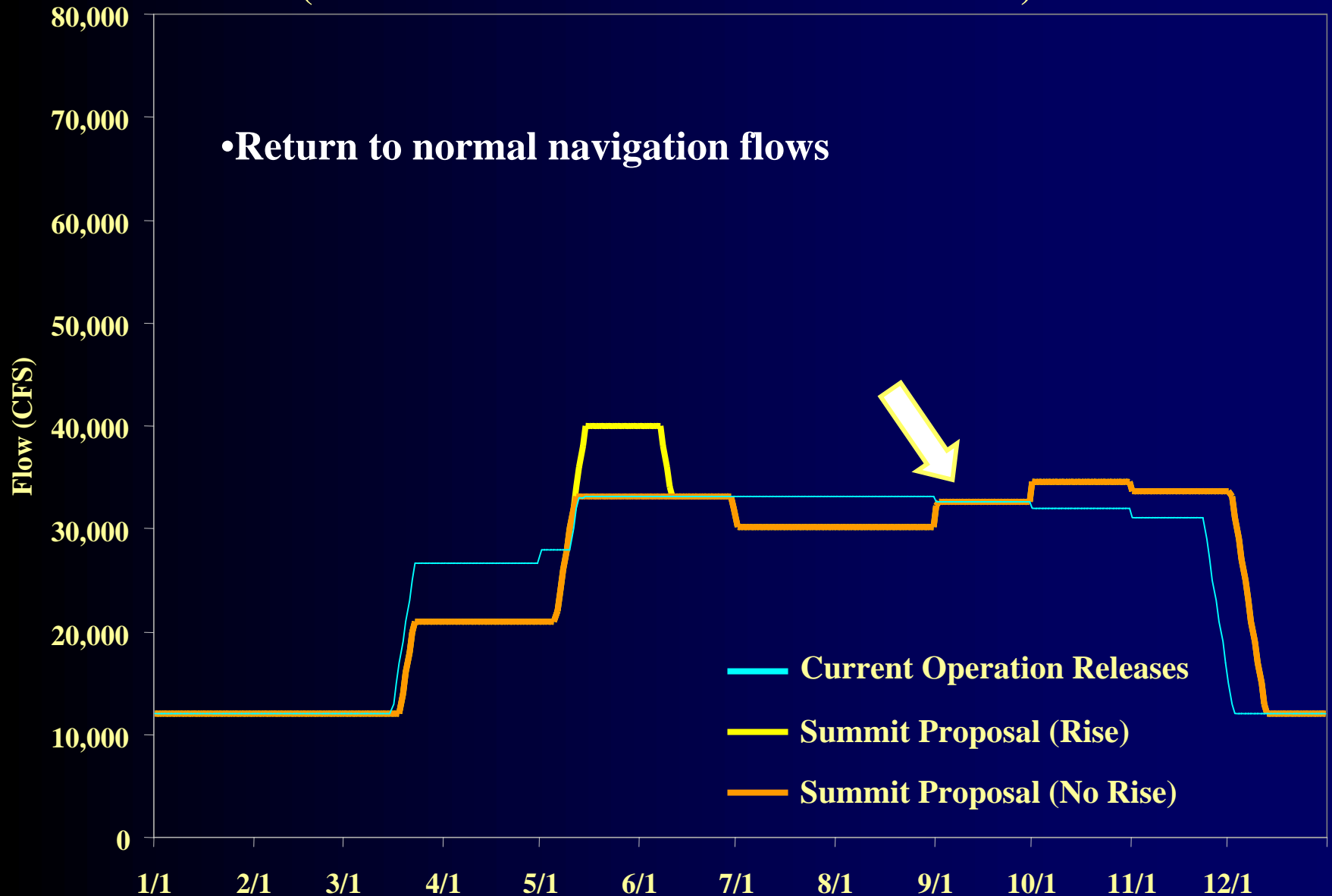
(Gavins Point Release-Normal Conditions)

- Reduced summer flows enhance production of endangered species
- Provides sufficient flows for downstream power plants
- Downstream recreation enhanced by slightly lower flows
- Continues to provide navigation service



Summit Proposal

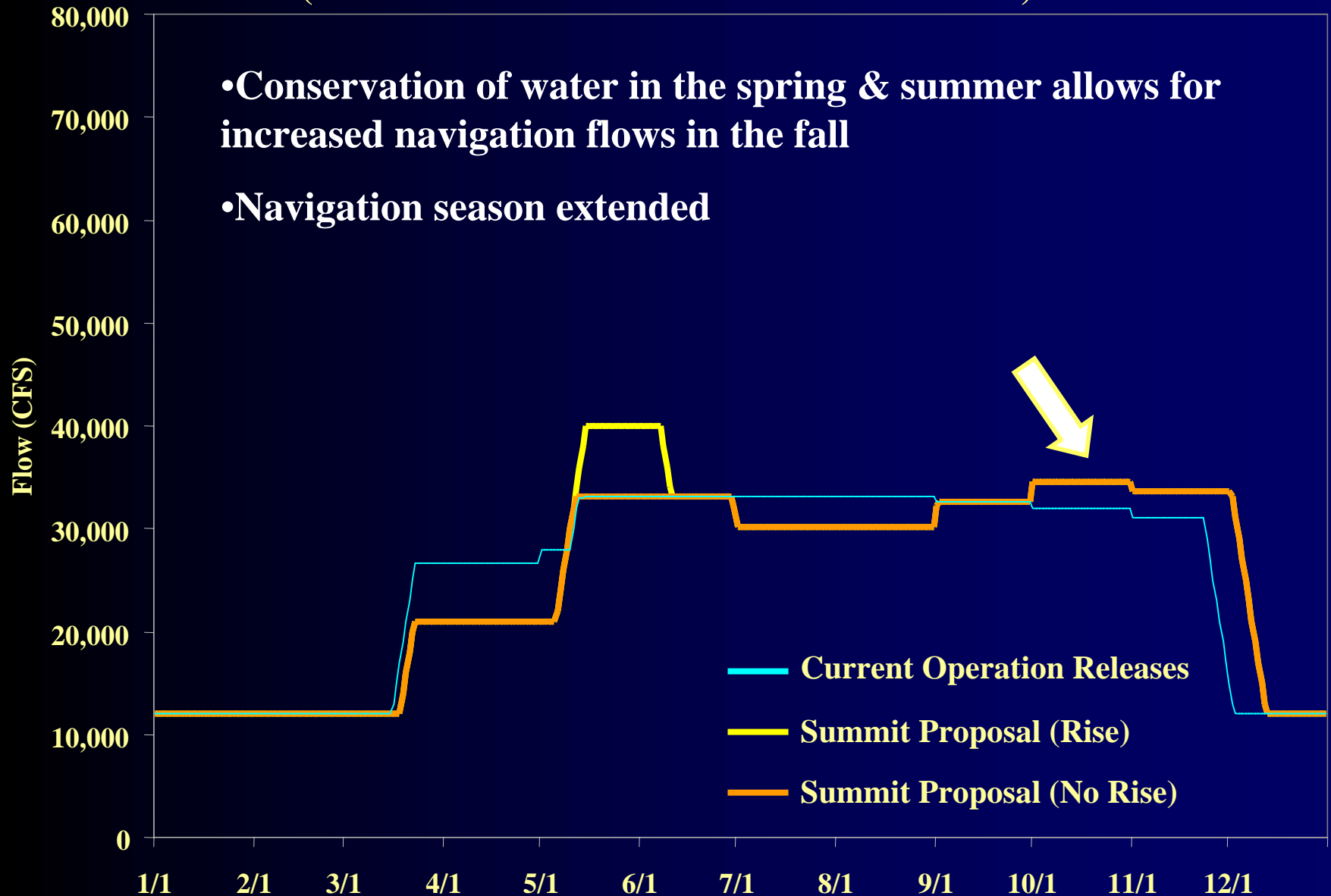
(Gavins Point Release-Normal Conditions)



Summit Proposal

(Gavins Point Release-Normal Conditions)

- Conservation of water in the spring & summer allows for increased navigation flows in the fall
- Navigation season extended



Benefits of Summit Proposal

- Addresses ESA issues raised in the BIOP
- Continues to provide full season navigation flows
- Provides an increase in late season navigation flows and extends the season length
- Provides sufficient cooling flows for downstream powerplants
- Reduces the potential impacts to floodplain farmers
- Addresses most of the upperbasin fishery management issues
- Increases recreational opportunities
- Minimizes the potential for future litigation
- Creates an opportunity for the basin to come together and achieve a win-win solution.

